(e) whether the Union Government are considering structural changes at the Apex level by setting up Tourism Development Authority;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Union Government also propose to set up mega projects at Hampi, Bellur and Halebeeb, etc. of Karnataka with special focus on Resort Tourism; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d). Identification, development and implementation of Mega Projects is entirely the responsibility of the State Governments. So far, the following Mega special projects namely Bekal Tourism Project in Kerala, Valiakulam Project in Kerala, Puri-Konark in Orissa, Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Muttukadu Beach in Tamilnadu, Diu in Daman & Diu and International Hotel Complex in New Delhi have been identified.

(e) and (f). No Sir, However, for implementation of the mega projects, the State Government of Kerala and Orissa have set up Special tourism area Authority.

(g) and (h). The Government of Karnataka has submitted a project proposal for the overall development of the Hampi site for external financial assistance.

Imposition of ESMA on Hospital Strike

363. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the staff of Hospitals have been brought under the Essential Services Maintenance Act;

(b) the effect of imposition of ESMA on the strike of karmacharis of Safdarjung Hospital; and

(c) the number of Karmacharis arrested after imposition of ESMA?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi issued a Notification on 29.10.96 inter-alia prohibiting strike/agitation of all employees/doctors of Central Government Hospitals in Delhi under the Haryana Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1974 as extended to the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Central Industrial Relations Machinery also initiated conciliation proceedings and finally an amicable agreement was arrived at on 15.11.96 which resulted in calling off of the Strike.

(c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Transfer of Telephone Connections

364. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has issued directions under which arrangements have been made to transfer the local telephone connections within 7 days, from Exchange within 15 days and from State within one month and to set right the out of order telephones within 48 hours;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of complaints received in this regard separately by various communications/MTNL officers from June, 1996 till date which have been disposed off State-wise;

(d) the details of complaints which have not been disposed off as per above directions, State-wise particularly in Delhi;

(e) the reasons therefor and steps taken against the officers held responsible for this; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of the directions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Instructions have been issued. The following norms have been prescribed :

1. Local Shift within 7 days
2. Interexchange shift within 10 days (15)
3. Intercity shift within 30 days
4. New Telephone Connection within 15 days
5. Fault Clearance within 48 hours.

(c) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Introduction of DMU Trains

365. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand to introduce DMU trains on Muzaffarpur, Hajipur and Chhapra section of the North Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some representations have been received in this regard.